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Identical letters dated 5 May 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, I wish to draw your attention to the following information.

At 1.40 a.m. Damascus time on Sunday, 5 May 2013, Israeli warplanes flying over Israel and southern Lebanon fired rockets at three sites belonging to the armed forces of the Syrian Arab Republic in north-east Jamraya, Maysalun and the airport for glider aircraft in the Dimas area. The sites attacked are located in Damascus and the surrounding countryside. This Israeli aggression killed and wounded many Syrian civilians and caused widespread destruction at the above-mentioned sites and in the nearby civilian areas.

This blatant Israeli aggression serves to confirm that there is a coordination of efforts among Israel, the terrorist groups and the *takfirists* of the Nusra Front, an arm of Al-Qaida. The purpose of that coordination is to provide military support directly to the terrorist groups, which recently failed to gain control of territory. It also confirms beyond any doubt that Israel is the beneficiary, the instigator and, in some cases, the perpetrator, whether directly or indirectly through its agents inside the country, of the attacks against the Syrian State and its people. In that connection, the Syrian Arab Republic affirms that the claims concerning the movement of weapons out of Syrian territory recently offered by Israel as a justification for its acts of aggression are groundless.

Israel's continued acts of aggression are heightening tensions in the region and threatening to drag it into a broad war that would jeopardize regional and international peace and security.

The Syrian Arab Republic believes that the statements made by the United States of America before and after the above-mentioned attacks encouraged Israel to commit its aggression and provided it with the political cover it needed to violate Syrian sovereignty, in clear contravention of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

While the Syrian Arab Republic affirms its right to defend itself, its territory and its sovereignty, it calls on the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities to halt and prevent the recurrence of Israeli aggression against Syria and ensure that the situation in the region does not deteriorate and spiral out of control. Syria

considers that the continued provision by certain permanent members of the Security Council of cover for Israel's ongoing aggression and occupation of Arab territory, including the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, makes them fully responsible for the consequences that might arise from Israel's acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative